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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT

# INFORMATION REPORT

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**SUBJECT** Meeting of the CDU Ministers

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. On 23 May 1950, Luitpold Steidle, Minister for Labor and Health in the DDR Government, presided over the regular meeting of Eastern CDU members who hold leading positions in the government of the DDR.
2. The first item on the agenda was a report on the political situation. This scheduled report, however, could not be given because of the absence of both Nuschke and Dertinger, who were at Schoenefeld Airport participating in the ceremonies upon the arrival of Wilhelm Pieck in Berlin.
3. The second point on the agenda, a report concerning the proposals made by the Economic Committee with regard to the Five-Year Plan, was discussed by Walter Ruebel in an exhaustive review which confirmed the suggestions made by the committee. The conference decided that these proposals must be worked out exactly and asked for the draft of a bill to be ready for the next ministers' conference.
4. The discussion of the CDU attitude to the patent law was postponed until the next session, but Malik, commissioned by State Secretary Brandt to speak in his absence, reported on the proposed change to the law governing the cooperatives. By and large the new cooperative law was approved. According to para. 1 of the new decree, the law is supposed to include common tillage and cattle-farming as a task of the agricultural cooperative. In the subsequent discussion Steidle mentioned that such a legal measure should not prepare the way for Kolkhozy, but should create a truly cooperative self-help program. From the later remarks, however, it became evident that, if the cooperative law is accepted, no sector of agriculture will remain which will not be treated on a cooperative basis. A committee was formed under the chairmanship of Ruebel and including Hildebrandt, Dr. Herbert Brandes, and one other representative of agriculture, to compose a modification to the law. This committee has until 15 June 1950 to bring out its plan.
5. Malik, again acting as Dr. Brandt's representative, reported on the fifth matter on the agenda, the law concerning the settlement of claims against expropriated enterprises. According to the draft presented, the claims of owners of expropriated properties shall be

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honored either by voluntary agreement based on the status quo ante 8 May 1945 or by action of a mixed commission which will fix the sum. The draft is not intended to provide the owners of expropriated properties with indemnification, but merely to provide some settlement for shareholders who can in no way be blamed for the expropriation of the enterprise. In all these instances, even when a small portion of the capital belonged to a Nazi, the firm was placed under sequester. The question of mortgages on confiscated real estate is still not clarified and it remains to be determined whether these shall be indemnified. Since the state-owned factories in part will not be in a position to satisfy very high claims of some shareholders, it is intended, if the occasion arises, to allow the so-called mixed enterprises, which are administered jointly by the state and private management, to remain in existence.

6. The formation of a supervisory office for insurance questions filled the sixth point on the agenda, but no agreement could be reached, since it could not be decided whether the office should be a central authority or should be under the administration of the Lnder governments. Minister Carl Ulbricht, who delivered the report, was in favor of a ruling on the Lnder basis.
7. Among the miscellaneous items included under Point 7 of the agenda was a report by Minister Steidle concerning the German Farmers' Conference in Eisenach. This message was nothing but a diatribe against the Western Powers, which through their armaments and construction of new drill grounds and air strips are in no way preserving the interests of Western German farmers. Steidle also emphasized that western agriculture is suffering badly because of marketing difficulties.

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